**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday December 12th 2018 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

S Durrant - SD

D Till – DT

G Merrett - GM

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

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| 1/161  2/162  3/163  6/164  5/165  7/166  8/167  4/168  9/169  10/170  11/171  12/172  13/173  14/174  15/175  16/176  17/177  18/178  19/179  20/180 | **Apologies for Absence** None  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor Report**  Cllr MC said that Locality funding had been approved for a new Bridge Club in Whepstead. Cllr LS asked whether NWS signs could be funded from his Locality Budget in future.  From May 2019, Whepstead will become part of the Whepstead and Wickhambrook Ward comprising the parishes of Wickhambrook, Denston, Stansfield, Hawkedon, Brockley and Whepstead. The existing Chedburgh Ward, of which we are currently a part, will become the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward, comprising Rede, Depden, Chedburgh, Chevington, Hargrave, Ousden, Lidgate and Dalham. So we will lose Cllr MC as our representative.  Charges for the Brown Bin service are to rise from £40 to £43. There will be free parking in Bury St Edmunds in the 10 days before Christmas. Plans are afoot to celebrate in 2020, 1,000 years of Bury St. Edmunds. The event will feature concerts, a pageant, plays and much more.  Cllr NA asked about the removal of dead animals. Despite reporting a dead deer, its body had still not been moved. Cllr MM mentioned that he had seen a number of laminated offensive messages attached to road signs and wondered how to report them. Cllr MC to find out.  **Planning Applications** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 6)*  **DC/18/2200/FUL – Land south of White Horse, Rede Road**  After a lengthy discussion, councillors voted unanimously to object to the application. Not only would it be outside the development envelope and be between two listed properties thereby changing the street scene, but it could potentially be a detriment to the pub, which is a fabulous asset in the village. Any complaints of noise from the pub garden - which has a play area and hosts a beer festival - could be likely but unwelcome. It was noted that Kevin Mayes’ application for a new build again outside the development envelope had been rejected.  **Public Forum**  None  **Minutes of the meetings held in October**  It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr MM that the October Minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the August and September meetings**  Cllr NA thanked everyone for making the Armistice Day celebrations so successful. The church had been packed at the morning’s service and over 100 attended the evening’s beacon lighting event. The council agreed it would be nice to offer residents transport to get to future events. DR to check attendees list with Di Howe. It was noted that DR needed to deliver Welcome Packs to four sets of new residents.  **County Councillor Report**  Circulated ahead of meeting.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR has booked the hall and picking equipment for next year’s Litter Pick on Sunday, February 17th starting at 10am. She amended next year’s meeting dates, The APM is not on April 17th, but April 19th, Friday evening.  DR has asked Kirstie Banham at Suffolk Housing to be notified when properties in Whepstead become available. She had written to Anglian Water, Matt Hancock and Karen Soons about road closures due to repairs. Regarding Rede Road, Anglian Water said they were aware they had had numerous failures there and “would look to put this section of [water] main forward for future investment and replacement.”  DR had heard that new reflector lights/bollards at the bottom of Straight Road – first reported missing in February – would be replaced within 14 weeks.  Kala Nobbs had written again to the PO about Tuffields Road’s stolen post box. Cllr NA said he had seen a PO van there and had been assured it would be replaced soon.  DR to investigate a defibrillator for the pub. Cllr LS speculated that the White Horse could be planning to put one in a recently acquired old Telephone Box.  **Finance**  Invoices for payment:  SALC 6 months payroll £21.60  Royal British Legion £17 (poppy wreath)  There were three bank reconciliations for September, October and November. It was proposed by Cllr DT and seconded by Cllr LS that the reconciliations were correct and the cheques signed.  DR had circulated a draft precept and briefed councillors on likely increased expenses such as a contested election (May 2, 2019), grass cutting and a possible clerk pay rise in April from £9.341 to £9.77 an hour.  They agreed that asking for a precept of £8,796 (up from £8,410) for 2019/20 would be acceptable costing villagers - living in a Band D properties - £40.56 a year, an extra £1.42 or 3.63% compared to 2018/19. DR to finalise the paperwork for January’s meeting and submit the precept form before the January 25th deadline.  DR circulated more Lloyds Bank signatory forms for completion.    **Bank balance to end September 2018**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £10,960.68 | | Savings account | £10,446.31 | | Total | £21,406.99 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £22,406.99 |   **Bank balance to end October 2018**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £9,341.87 | | Savings account | £10,446.73 | | Total | £19,788.60 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £19,788.60 |   **Bank balance to end November 2018**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £8,780.63 | | Savings account | £10,447.17 | | Total | £19,227.80 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £19,227.80 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  Cllr NA to speak to the Plovers residents about cutting the hedge overhanging the path on their boundary and to supply them with the name of a local contractor. DR to let Jeff Pyne know that we will follow up the state of the pavements near him with Highways as the PC had received more complaints about them, especially the stretch between The Old Rectory and the Chapel on Rectory Road.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS had little to report. The latest break-ins seemed to be targeting workers’ vans. She would investigate whether planning was required to put up NWS signposts and would speak to Cllr Soons and Cllr Chester about possible funding. Despite publicising our new Community Engagement Officer in the October newsletter, she had been unable to contact him and questioned whether the Police Commissioner Tim Passmore was doing a good job. Cllr NA thanked her for her commitment to the NWS.  **Broadband**  Cllr TS had heard that the residents of Plumton Hall and Pattles Grove were looking to install fibre to premises and that he and the Oak House residents were asking whether they could tap into that.  Cllr GM confirmed that he now gets over 20 mbps. DR to write to Suffolk Better Broadband and Cllr Soons and ask why people in Brockley with already decent broadband speeds are being upgraded while they are prepared to leave others like him with nothing.  **Tuffields Road Post Box** *(see Clerk’s Report)*  **Bus Shelter**  Cllr NA circulated two quotes for work to the roof of the bus shelter. It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr GM to accept a quote for £262 + VAT from Nick Hayward Roofing. Cllr NA to let him know. He is awaiting a second quote for installing windows.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  The kitchen is progressing and should be ready early in the new year. The Xmas Fayre was very well supported and made around £680.  **Correspondence**  Cllr MM had submitted words to accompany one of the village walks to The Green Access Team, but they said they wanted details of both the walks before proceeding. Cllr MM to speak to Lizzie Nutt about providing those in the hope of completing the project by Spring. It was suggested that a Locality Budget application be made to cover the publication costs.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA reiterated - what he had said at October’s meeting - that he would step down as chairman in May and urged others to consider the role. He asked DR to add it as an agenda item for January’s meeting.  **Any Other Business**  Cllr SD to report two potholes near him on Straight Road.  The meeting closed at 8.30pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |